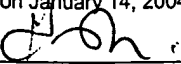


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GERARD J. MCGOWAN, JR.  
Reg. No. 29,412  
Attorney for Applicant(s)

01/14/04  
Date of  
Signature

**PATENT**  
#02-0539-UNI  
Case #F3315(C)



**IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE**

Applicant: Bartkowska et al.  
Serial No.: 10/664,101  
Filed: September 17, 2003  
For: FROZEN AERATED PRODUCTS

Edgewater, New Jersey 07020  
January 14, 2004

**SUBMISSION OF PRIORITY DOCUMENT**

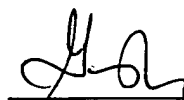
Assistant Commissioner for Patents  
Washington, D.C. 20231

Sir:

Pursuant to rule 55(b) of the Rules of Practice in Patent Cases, Applicant(s) is/are submitting herewith a certified copy of the United Kingdom Application No. 0221565.5 filed September 17, 2002, upon which the claim for priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119 was made in the United States.

It is respectfully requested that the priority document be made part of the file history.

Respectfully submitted,



Gerard J. McGowan, Jr.  
Reg. No. 29,412  
Attorney for Applicant(s)

GJM/mt  
(201) 840-2297





INVESTOR IN PEOPLE

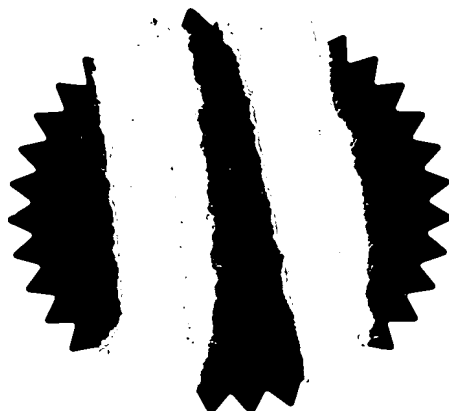
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Concept House  
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Newport  
South Wales  
NP10 8QQ

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# Request for grant of a patent

(See the notes on the back of this form. You can also get an explanatory leaflet from the Patent Office to help you fill in this form)

1. Your reference

F3315(C)/PMK

2. Patent application number  
(The Patent Office will fill in this part)

0221565.5

17 SEP 2002

3. Full name, address and postcode of the or of each applicant (underline all surnames)

UNILEVER PLC  
UNILEVER HOUSE, BLACKFRIARS  
LONDON, EC4P 4BQ

Patents ADP number (if you know it)

50426956002 ✓

If the applicant is a corporate body, give the country/state of its incorporation

UNITED KINGDOM

4. Title of the invention

FROZEN AERATED PRODUCTS

5. Name of your agent (if you have one)

THACKER, Michael Anthony

"Address for Service" in the United Kingdom to which all correspondence should be sent (including the postcode)

PATENT DEPARTMENT, UNILEVER PLC  
COLWORTH HOUSE, SHARNBROOK  
BEDFORD, MK44 1LQ

Patents ADP number (if you know it)

7113285003

6. If you are declaring priority from one or more earlier patent applications, give the country and the date of filing of the or of each of these earlier applications and (if you know it) the or each application number

Country	Priority application number (if you know it)	Date of filing (day / month / year)

7. If this application is divided or otherwise derived from an earlier UK application, give the number and the filing date of the earlier application

Number of earlier application	Date of filing (day/month/year)

8. Is a statement of inventorship and of right to grant of a patent required in support of this request? (Answer 'Yes' if:

YES

- a) any applicant named in part 3 is not an inventor, or
  - b) there is an inventor who is not named as an applicant, or
  - c) any named applicant is a corporate body.
- See note (d))

## Patents Form 1/77

9. Enter the number of sheets for any of the following items you are filing with this form.  
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Description 19

Claim(s) 4

Abstract 1

Drawing(s)

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Priority Documents

Translations of priority documents

Statement of inventorship and right to grant of a patent (Patents Form 7/77)

Request for preliminary examination and search (Patents Form 9/77) 1

Request for substantive examination (Patents Form 10/77)

Any other documents (please specify)

11. I/We request the grant of a patent on the basis of this application.

Signature(s)



Date: 17/09/02

Sandra Jane EDWARDS, Authorised Signatory

12. Name and daytime telephone number of person to contact in the United Kingdom Petra Kimber, Tel 01234 222893

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Frozen Aerated ProductsTechnical Field of the Invention

5 The invention relates to a frozen aerated product such as ice cream, wherein the frozen aerated product is stabilised by plant derived ingredients in their unrefined state and has no additional refined emulsifiers or stabilisers. This invention also relates to methods of preparation of a frozen aerated  
10 product.

Background of the invention

The majority of industrially manufactured frozen aerated  
15 products utilise added emulsifiers and stabilisers for their structuring and stabilising ability. These ingredients are used to provide viscosity enhancement, gel formation and water-binding ability and are thought to help prevent ice recrystallisation, to provide the mouthfeel expected by the  
20 consumer and to enhance the shelf life and thermal stability of the product. The presence of these emulsifiers and stabilisers in such products are however perceived by many consumers as artificial or unnatural and therefore undesirable. Previous attempts have been made to produce so-  
25 called all-natural ice creams, which do not contain any emulsifiers and/or stabilisers but these have not been totally satisfactory. Some suffer from the disadvantage that they have a thin and icy mouthfeel together with a fast melting behaviour and the overall quality tends to deteriorate rapidly  
30 during storage. Other attempts such as those involving ultra-high pressure treatment (WO98/18350), low temperature extrusion (WO98/09534, WO98/09536), milk fermentation (EP1180329), casein modification (WO94/10854), whey protein

aggregation (Koxholt, M.; McIntosh, T.; Eisenmann, B. [1999]:  
Enhanced stability of ice cream by using particulated whey  
proteins. European Dairy Magazine 10(1): 14-15) All the above  
require additional process steps together with investment in  
5 extra and often specialised equipment. These factors lead to  
higher processing costs and an increase in the manufacturing  
complexity associated with the product. The use of high fat  
(typically 20% or higher) levels has also been proposed but as  
well as substantially increasing the raw material costs, also  
10 has a negative impact on dietary health and nutrition.

### **Definitions**

#### Emulsifiers

15 Emulsifiers are defined as in Arbuckle, W.S., Ice Cream, 5<sup>th</sup>  
Edition, AVI Publishing, 1996, ch 6, p75-79.

#### Stabilisers

20 Stabilisers are defined as in Arbuckle, W.S., Ice Cream, 5<sup>th</sup>  
Edition, AVI Publishing, 1996, ch 6, p71-75.

#### Frozen Aerated Product

The term "frozen aerated product" as used in this specification  
means a frozen product made by freezing a pasteurised mix of  
25 ingredients with agitation to incorporate air into the product.

#### Overrun

Overrun is defined as in Ice Cream - W.S. Arbuckle - AVI  
Publishing, 1972, page 194. Several ways of calculating the  
30 overrun are given in this book. In this specification  
overrun is measured according to the formula

$$\% \text{Overrun} = 100 \times [\text{Wt}_{\text{mix}} - \text{Wt}_{\text{product}}] / \text{Wt}_{\text{product}}$$



in which  $Wt_{mix}$  is the weight of a certain volume of the mix from which the frozen product is to be prepared and  $Wt_{product}$  is the weight of the same volume of the product after it has  
5 been frozen and aerated.

#### Fruit Puree

The term "fruit puree" as used in this specification means a  
10 homogeneous product which has been prepared from whole or peeled fruit of good maturity, which has been pulped by a suitable physical process. {See United States Department of Agriculture (USDA) authorised Commercial Item Description A-A-20252A dated June 5, 2000 and the Revised Proposal Draft Codex General  
15 Standard For Fruit Juices and Nectars dated August 9, 2001 issued by the National Juice Products Association}. The puree may or may not have had a portion of the water physically removed. The latter of the two references identified above defines Fruit Nectar as a fruit puree to which water and optionally sugars have  
20 been added. The expression "fruit puree" as used herein is intended to embrace such Fruit Nectars.

#### pH

In this specification pH is determined by using a Jenway 3020 pH  
25 meter equipped with a BDH Gelpas epoxy body sealed reference combination pH electrode and a temperature electrode. The pH meter was calibrated using two buffers at pH 7 and 4 at 10°C. The pH of the premixes and the melted products of the present invention was determined at 8-12°C. To measure the pH of melted  
30 product frozen ice cream blocks were removed from their packaging and placed in covered tubs and allowed to melt for 48 hours at 5°C in a constant temperature room. Melted ice creams were gently

stirred to incorporate any serum which may have separated, before the pH was determined.

#### Brief Description of the Invention

5

In accordance with a first object of the invention there is provided a frozen aerated product having an overrun of between 10% and 250% and a pH, when melted, in the range 3.5 to 5.2, said frozen aerated product comprising water, 0 to 20 w/w% fat, 0.25  
10 to 20 w/w% milk solids not fat, 0.05 to 1.5 w/w% soluble dietary fibre and 0.1 to 5 w/w% of insoluble dietary fibre, 0.1 to 35 w/w% sweetener but no additional stabilisers or emulsifiers as herein defined.

15 Preferably, the frozen aerated product according to this invention is an ice cream.

The fat used may be a dairy fat, a non-dairy fat or a mixture of both. When the fat is a dairy fat, it may be for example, any  
20 milk fat source such as butter oil, butter, cream, or a mixture thereof. Where an effective amount of non-dairy fat is to be included in the product, this non-dairy fat may, for example, be an edible oil or fat, preferably a vegetable oil such as peanut oil, palm kernel oil, coconut oil, soy bean oil, olive oil or  
25 mixtures thereof or a hydrogenated fat. More preferably the non-dairy fat comprises coconut oil.

The milk solids not fat (MSNF) contains milk proteins and lactose. MSNF may be provided by using dried milk products,  
30 liquid milk products or concentrated milk products which may also be used as the source of the dairy fats above. Suitable products include dried whole milk, dried skimmed milk, dried whey, liquid milk, concentrated milk products and mixtures thereof.

Preferred frozen aerated products according to the invention may contain (a) at least 0.1 w/w% preferably at least 0.2 w/w% but no more than 1.2 w/w% preferably no more than 1 w/w% soluble dietary  
5 fibre and (b) at least 0.2 w/w% preferably at least 0.3 w/w% and no more than 2 w/w% preferably no more than 1 w/w% insoluble dietary fibre. An Information Statement issued by the Institute of Food Science and Technology dated 19 June 2001 entitled  
10 Dietary Fibre states that "Dietary fibre is now defined as food material, particularly plant material that is not hydrolysed by enzymes secreted by the human digestive tract but that may be digested by microflora in the gut". The same publication states that dietary fibre may be divided into two forms based on their water solubility. Insoluble dietary fibre is said to include  
15 celluloses, some hemicelluloses and lignin and soluble dietary fibre is said to include B glucans, pectins, gums, mucilages and some hemicelluloses. The amount of dietary fibre is determined as set out in AOAC International. 1995. "Total, soluble and insoluble dietary fiber in foods". AOAC official method 991.43.  
20 Official Methods of Analysis, 16th ed.

The soluble dietary fibre and the insoluble dietary fibre may be derived from fruits or vegetables for example from one or more  
25 fruit purees, one or more vegetable purees or mixtures thereof.

The requisite amounts of soluble dietary fibre and of insoluble dietary fibre may be provided by incorporating into the mix from which the frozen aerated product is prepared the appropriate  
30 amount of a fruit puree. The fruit puree may be obtained from any fruit or mixture of fruits which is capable of providing the requisite amounts of soluble dietary fibre and of insoluble dietary fibre. Suitable fruits include apple, banana,

blackberry, blackcurrant, blueberry, cherry, cranberry, gooseberry, grapes, guava, kiwi fruit, mango, orange, papaya, passion fruit, peach, pear, pineapple, plums, pomegranate, pumpkin, raspberry, redcurrant, strawberry and tomato. In a preferred embodiment of the invention, the puree has been prepared from heat treated fruits of good maturity. The physical process used to pulp the fruit in the production of the puree may include chopping, sieving, grinding and milling. Preferably the puree will have been sieved, for example through a 0.5mm mesh screen to remove seeds etc. The amount of fruit puree to be incorporated into the frozen aerated products of the present invention may be in the range 5 to 80% w/w.

The requisite amounts of soluble dietary fibre and of insoluble dietary fibre may be provided by incorporating into the mix from which the frozen aerated product is prepared the appropriate amount of a vegetable puree. A "vegetable puree" as used herein is a puree made from a plant source other than a fruit but which has the same characteristics as the fruit purees defined hereinbefore. Suitable non-fruit plant sources include beans (green, string), brussel sprouts, carrot, cauliflower, celeriac, kale, onions, sugar beet, sweet potato and white cabbage.

Mixtures of fruit purees and/or mixtures of vegetable purees may be used to provide the requisite amounts of soluble dietary fibre and of insoluble dietary fibre.

In the frozen aerated products of the present invention, no additional stabilisers which are typically present in aerated frozen products are used. Examples of known stabilisers include alginates, gum arabic, gum ghatti, gum karaya, gum tragacanth, locust bean gum, carrageenan, xanthan gum, guar gum, gelatine, agar, sodium carboxymethylcellulose, microcrystalline cellulose,

methyl and methylethyl celluloses, hydroxypropyl and hydroxypropylmethyl celluloses, low and high methoxyl pectins and mixtures thereof. Additionally in the frozen aerated products of the present invention no additional emulsifiers are used.

5 Examples of known emulsifiers include mono- and di-glycerides of fatty acids, and polyoxyethylene derivatives of hexahydric alcohols (usually sorbitol), glycol and glycol esters. The present applicants have surprisingly found that the functions of these conventionally added components of ice cream are performed  
10 by the plant derived ingredients used in the products of the present invention.

Sweeteners such as sucrose, fructose, glucose, lactose, dextrose and invert sugar can be included in the pre-mix in either  
15 crystalline or liquid syrup form. Alternatively, or additionally, the sweetener may be a corn sweetener in either a crystalline form of refined corn sugar (dextrose and fructose), a dried corn syrup (corn syrup solids), a liquid corn syrup or a mixture thereof.

20

The frozen aerated products of the present invention show resistance to meltdown and to serum leakage for extended periods of time on exposure to a temperature above the melting point of the product. Resistance to meltdown and to serum leakage is  
25 determined by measuring the meltdown initiation time as described hereinafter. The frozen aerated product of the present invention satisfy the condition that meltdown initiation time is greater than 60 minutes, preferably greater than 120, more preferably greater than 180 minutes, most preferably greater than 240  
30 minutes, when measured at 20°C in the test described below.

The meltdown initiation times were determined in the following way. Tests were performed on a stainless steel wire mesh grid

having a size of 25 x 25 cm, with 2.5 mm holes, 1mm thick wire. The grids are placed on a 60° funnel with a bore size of 2cm suspended over a collecting vessel (of large enough volume to collect the entire sample tested) placed on balances for weighing the material collected in the vessel. The balances are connected to a data logging system to record the mass collected. The grids were placed in a meltdown cabinet set at a constant temperature environment of 20 °C, which was capable of holding up to 12 of these grids simultaneously.

10

For each formulation listed hereinafter in the examples, melting tests were performed on three samples of each product at 20 °C. Each sample was in the form of a rectangular block measuring 14.5 x 9 x 3.8cm and was placed on the grid with one of its larger flat faces in contact with the grid. Before placement in the cabinet the ice cream samples were equilibrated in a freezer at -25 °C, and then weighed on a zeroed balance containing the mesh grid. They were then arranged randomly over the available positions in the meltdown cabinet. Once all samples were in place, the data logging system measured the amount of collected material every minute.

15  
20

From the mass of the sample collected over this period, the percentage mass loss of the samples is calculated using the following formula.

25

$$\% \text{MassLoss} = \frac{M_t - M_0}{F} \times 100$$

wherein:

$M_t$  = mass recorded (gram) at time t minute

$M_0$  = mass recorded (gram) at start of analysis, t = 0 minute

30

F = Initial mass of product (gram)

The meltdown initiation time for each sample of each formulation was observed. This is defined by the time that elapses before 4% of the initial weight of the sample has dropped into the collecting vessel.

5

The above meltdown experiments were repeated at 37°C in the presence of dishes of water in the meltdown cabinet to prevent dehydration of the samples.

- 10 The frozen aerated products of the present invention may be prepared in several ways.

In accordance with a second aspect of the present invention there is provided a process for manufacturing a frozen aerated product  
15 having an overrun of between 10% and 250% and a pH, when melted, in the range 3.5 to 5.2, said frozen aerated product comprising water, 0 to 20 w/w% fat, 0.25 to 20 w/w% milk solids not fat, 0.1 to 35 w/w% sweetener, 0.05 to 1.5 w/w% soluble dietary fibre, 0.1 to 5 w/w% of insoluble dietary fibre, but no additional  
20 stabilisers or emulsifiers, the process comprising the steps of:  
a) adjusting the pH of a fruit and/or vegetable puree to a value above the isoelectric point of any protein to be incorporated into the frozen aerated product  
b) producing a premix comprising fat, milk solids not fat,  
25 sweetener and 5 to 80 w/w% of the pH adjusted fruit puree  
c) homogenising and pasteurising the premix  
d) cooling the pasteurised premix  
e) adjusting the pH of the cooled premix to 3.5 to 5.2, and  
f) freezing and aerating the homogenised premix to form the  
30 frozen aerated product.

The pH of the fruit and/or vegetable puree may be adjusted by the addition of base for example sodium hydroxide. The adjusted pH may be in the range 4.9 to 5.3.

- 5 Conveniently the premix may be produced by adding the MSNF and the sweetener followed by the fat (if used) to the fruit and/or vegetable puree.

10 The pH of the cooled premix is adjusted to a value in the range 3.5 to 5.2 by the addition of an edible acid. The edible acid may be citric acid. Fruit juice or concentrate may be used as the source of the edible acid.

15 In accordance with a third aspect of the present invention there is provided a process for manufacturing a frozen aerated product having an overrun of between 10% and 250% and a pH, when melted, in the range 3.5 to 5.2, said frozen aerated product comprising water, 0 to 20 w/w% fat, 0.25 to 20 w/w% milk solids non fat, 0.1 to 35 w/w% sweetener, 0.05 to 1.5 w/w% soluble dietary fibre and  
20 0.1 to 5 w/w% insoluble dietary fibre but no additional stabilisers or emulsifiers, the process comprising the steps of:  
a) producing a premix comprising water, fat, milk solids not fat, sweetener  
b) homogenising and pasteurising the premix  
25 c) cooling the pasteurised premix  
d) adding a fruit and/or vegetable puree containing sufficient soluble and insoluble fibre to provide the necessary soluble and insoluble fibre in the frozen aerated product  
e) freezing and aerating the mixture to form the frozen aerated  
30 product.



In a preferred embodiment of the process described in the previous paragraph, the fruit and/or vegetable puree is homogenised before it is added to the pasteurised premix.

- 5 Conveniently the premix may be produced by mixing the MSNF and the sweetener and then adding the fat (if used).

The processes of this invention includes the step of homogenising and pasteurising the mix. The mix may be homogenised using  
10 equipment and conditions commonly known in the industry for example a single stage valve homogeniser or an ultra high pressure (UHP) homogeniser. Pasteurisation of the homogenised mix can be conducted using any method and condition that is well known to a person skilled in this field for example high  
15 temperature short time (HTST) or low temperature long time (LTLT) pasteurisation. In a preferred homogenising and pasteurising step according to the processes of the present invention the temperature of the premix is raised to the pasteurisation temperature, the premix is homogenised and then held at the  
20 pasteurisation temperature for sufficient time to complete the pasteurisation.

After homogenisation and pasteurisation the mix is preferably held at a temperature between 0° and 6°C for a period between 1  
25 and 24 hours preferably with agitation. Preferably the product is held at a temperature between 1° and 5°C with agitation for 2 to 18 hours, or more preferably for 4 to 12 hours.

The mix is then frozen and aerated. This may be achieved in any  
30 equipment suitable for this purpose and commonly known in the industry. One of ordinary skill in the art will readily be able to determine the required aeration pressure and throughput rate of the mix to obtain the desired aerated product.

The conditions of aeration are chosen to achieve an overrun of about 10% to about 250%. Preferably the overrun for the preferred ice cream products is between 50% and 150%, more preferably 60% and 120% and most preferably between 80% and 110%.

The aerated mix is then extruded, preferably directly, into containers.

10

#### Detailed Description of the Invention

Examples of the products of the invention and comparative examples will now be described by way of illustration only, and not to limit the invention.

#### Examples 1 to 10

Formulations containing the components listed in Table 1 were prepared by the method described below.

The pH of the fruit purees was measured and adjusted to a value above the isoelectric point of the proteins to be incorporated into the product by the addition of sodium hydroxide. The fruit puree was heated to 20°C placed in a jacketed mix tank at 85°C, then water (if shown in Table 1), skimmed milk powder, whey, sucrose/dextrose/corn syrup and coconut oil were dissolved by mixing with a high shear mixer. Hot water was circulated in the jacket of the tank to maintain a premix temperature of 65°C.

The premix was heated using a plate heat exchanger to a temperature of 83°C, homogenised using a Crepaco single stage

valve homogeniser at a pressure of 140 bar or in a Crepaco single stage valve homogeniser operating at a pressure of 300 bar with a 30 bar back-pressure. After holding the mix at 83°C for 15 seconds, the mix was cooled using a plate heat exchanger to 5°C and held at this temperature for at least 2 hours before freezing. The mix was acidified with citric acid to give the pH values listed in Table 1.

The mix containing the fruit puree was processed through a continuous ice cream freezer (type APV Technohoy MF75) fitted with a closed dasher rotating at a speed of 300-500 rpm and operating with a barrel pressure in the range 1-4 bar. All frozen aerated products were produced with a mix flow rate of 0.4 l/min, with an overrun in the range 100-250% and an extrusion temperature in the range -5°C to -9°C. The frozen aerated products were collected in 500 ml waxed paper cartons and then hardened in a blast freezer at -35°C for a period of 2 hours. The hardened products were then stored at -25°C.

In Table 1 the weights of the ingredients are given as w/w percentages of the finished ice cream. Meltdown initiation times and pH were determined by the methods described hereinbefore and the values obtained are given in Table 1.

Table 1

	Example 1	Example 2	Example 3	Example 4	Example 5
Skimmed Milk Powder	4.12	4.12	4.12	4.12	4.12
Whey	4	4	4	4	4
Coconut Oil	9	9	9	9	9
Sucrose	9.5	11.5	11.5	11.5	11.5
Dextrose					
Corn Syrup 63 DE (78% Solids)	11	11	11	11	11
Strawberry Puree	61.88	40	40		
Apple Puree				50	50
Mango Puree					
Water		19.88		9.88	9.88
Citric Acid	0.5	0.5	0.25	0.5	0.5
Premix pH at 10°C	5.07	4.66	5.01	4.4	4.19
Melted Ice Cream pH at 10°C	4.83	4.53	4.98	4.55	4.51
Homogenisation Pressure (bar)	140	140	140	140	330
Overrun (%)	100	100	100	100	100
Meltdown Initiation Time at 20°C (min)	252	232	186	252	252
Meltdown Initiation Time at 37°C (min)	135	103	125	159	223

Table 1 continued

	Example 6	Example 7	Example 8	Example 9	Example 10
Skimmed Milk Powder	4.12	4.12	4.12	6	4
Whey	4	4	4		4
Coconut Oil	9	9		9	9
Sucrose	11.5	11.5	5	20	3
Dextrose		11	10		24
Corn Syrup 63 DE (78% Solids)	11		11		
Strawberry Puree				64.5	55.75
Apple Puree	30		65.38		
Mango Puree		30			
Water	29.88	29.88			
Citric Acid	0.5	0.5	0.5	0.5	0.25
Premix pH at 10°C	4.36	4.18	4.65	4.85	4.95
Melted Ice Cream pH at 10°C	4.36	ND	4.59	5.09	4.85
Homogenisation Pressure	140	140	140	140	140
Overrun (%)	100	100	100	100	200
Meltdown Initiation Time at 20°C (min)	111	252	87	252	239
Meltdown Initiation Time at 37°C (min)	75	193	50	179	86

Examples 11 to 13

Formulations containing the components listed in Table 2 were prepared by the method described below.

5

Water was placed in a jacketed mix tank at 85°C, then skimmed milk powder, whey (if present), sucrose/corn syrup, coconut oil (if present) and cream (if present) were dissolved by mixing with a high shear mixer. Hot water was  
10 circulated in the jacket of the tank to maintain a premix temperature of 65°C.

The premix was heated using a plate heat exchanger to a temperature of 83°C, homogenised using a Crepaco single stage  
15 valve homogeniser at pressures of 140 bar. After holding the mix at 83°C for 15 seconds, the mix was cooled using a plate heat exchanger to 5°C. The fruit puree was added to the pasteurised premix with stirring and the entire mix held at this temperature for at least 2 hours before freezing. In Examples 11 and 12 the  
20 fruit puree had been pre-pasteurised and aseptically stored prior to use. In Example 13 the puree was homogenised and pasteurised in a Crepaco homogeniser (140bar) immediately prior to being added to the premix.

25 If necessary, citric acid was added to give the pH values listed in Table 2.

The mix containing the fruit puree was processed through a continuous ice cream freezer (type APV Technohoy MF75) fitted  
30 with a closed dasher rotating at a speed of 300-500 rpm and operating with a barrel pressure in the range 1-4 bar. All frozen aerated products were produced with a mix flow rate of 0.4 l/min, with an overrun of 100% and an extrusion temperature in the range -5°C to -9°C. The frozen aerated products were collected in 500

ml waxed paper cartons and then hardened in a blast freezer at -35°C for a period of 2 hours. The hardened products were then stored at -25°C.

5 Table 2

	Example 11	Example 12	Example 13
Skimmed Milk Powder	4.12	6.5	4.12
Whey	4		4
Coconut Oil	9		9
Cream 48% Fat		18.6	
Sucrose	9.5	20	11.5
Corn Syrup 63 DE (78% Solids)	11		11
Water	20.38	14.9	20.38
Strawberry Purée	40.0	40.0	
Homogenised Strawberry Purée			40.0
Premix pH at 10°C	4.63	ND	4.63
Melted Ice Cream pH at 10°C	4.73	4.94	4.76
Homogenisation Pressure	140	140	140
Overrun (%)	100	100	100
Meltdown Initiation Time at 20°C (min)	153	182	195
Meltdown Initiation Time at 37°C (min)	81	ND	120

ND = not determined

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Control Examples 1 and 2

Formulations containing the components listed in Table 3 were prepared by the method described below.

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Water was placed in a jacketed mix tank at 85°C, then skimmed milk powder, whey, sucrose/corn syrup and coconut oil were dissolved by mixing with a high shear mixer. Hot water was circulated in the jacket of the tank to maintain a

premix temperature of 65°C. In Control Example 1 the MGP, locust bean gum, guar gum and carrageenan were added to the premix.

- 5 The premix was heated using a plate heat exchanger to a temperature of 83°C, homogenised using a Crepaco single stage valve homogeniser at pressures of 140 bar. After holding the mix at 83°C for 15 seconds, the mix was cooled using a plate heat exchanger to 5°C and held at this temperature for at least 2
- 10 hours before freezing. In Control Example 1, colour and flavour were added to the cooled mix.

The mix was processed through a continuous ice cream freezer (type APV Technohoy MF75) fitted with a closed dasher rotating at

15 a speed of 300-500 rpm and operating with a barrel pressure in the range 1-4 bar. The products were produced with a mix flow rate of 0.4 l/min, with an overrun of 100% and an extrusion temperature in the range -5°C to -9°C. The frozen aerated products were collected in 500 ml waxed paper cartons and then

20 hardened in a blast freezer at -35°C for a period of 2 hours. The hardened products were then stored at -25°C.



Table 3

	Control 1	Control 2
Skimmed Milk Powder	4.12	4.12
Whey	4	4
Coconut Oil	9	9
Sucrose	11.5	11.5
Corn Syrup 63DE (78% Solids)	11	11
Water	59.47	60.38
MGP	0.3	
Locust Bean Gum	0.14	
Guar Gum	0.075	
Carrageenan L100	0.025	
Flavour	0.204	
Colour	0.17	
Premix pH at 10°C	6.45	6.42
Melted Ice Cream pH at 10°C	6.42	6.59
Homogenisation Pressure	140	140
Overrun (%)	100	100
Meltdown Initiation Time at 20°C (min)	87	22
Meltdown Initiation Time at 37°C (min)	37	8

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The frozen aerated products of the present invention have a thick, smooth and creamy texture with excellent taste and flavour. The consumer gets a warm eating sensation when consuming the products. Because of the high meltdown resistance shown by the frozen aerated products of the present invention the products keep their shape for longer, can be refrozen and show less tendency to drip during consumption. Generally, for products that are sold on a stick there is less tendency for the product to fall off the stick during consumption.

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CLAIMS

- 1) A frozen aerated product having an overrun of between 10% and 250% and a pH, when melted, in the range 3.5 to 5.2, comprising water, 0 to 20 w/w% fat, 0.25 to 20 w/w% milk solids not fat, 0.05 to 1.5 w/w% soluble dietary fibre and 0.1 to 5 w/w% of insoluble dietary fibre, 0.1 to 35 w/w% sweetener but no additional stabilisers or emulsifiers as herein defined.
- 2) A frozen aerated product according to claim 1 wherein the soluble dietary fibre and the insoluble dietary fibre are derived from fruits or vegetables.
- 3) A frozen aerated product according to claim 2 wherein the soluble dietary fibre and the insoluble dietary fibre are derived from one or more fruit purees, one or more vegetable purees or mixtures thereof.
- 4) A frozen aerated product according to claim 1 comprising 0.1 to 1.2 w/w% soluble dietary fibre and 0.2 to 2 w/w% of insoluble dietary fibre.
- 5) A frozen aerated product according to claim 1 comprising 0.2 to 1 w/w% soluble dietary fibre and 0.3 to 1 w/w% of insoluble dietary fibre.
- 6) A process for manufacturing a frozen aerated product having an overrun of between 10% and 250% and a pH, when melted, in the range 3.5 to 5.2, said frozen aerated product comprising water, 0 to 20 w/w% fat, 0.25 to 20 w/w% milk solids not fat, 0.1 to 35 w/w% sweetener, 0.05 to 1.5 w/w% soluble dietary fibre 0.1 to 5 w/w% of insoluble dietary fibre but no

additional stabilisers or emulsifiers, the process comprising the steps of:

- a) adjusting the pH of a fruit and/or vegetable puree to a value above the isoelectric point of any protein to be incorporated into the frozen aerated product
  - b) producing a premix comprising fat, milk solids not fat, sweetener and 5 to 80 w/w% of the pH adjusted fruit and/or vegetable puree
  - c) homogenising and pasteurising the premix
  - d) cooling the pasteurised premix
  - e) adjusting the pH of the cooled premix to 3.5 to 5.2, and
  - f) freezing and aerating the homogenised premix to form the frozen aerated product.
- 7) A process according to claim 4 wherein the pH of the fruit and/or vegetable puree is adjusted by the addition of base for example sodium hydroxide.
- 8) A process according to claim 4 wherein the premix is produced by adding the milk solids not fat and the sweetener followed by the fat (if used) to the fruit and/or vegetable puree.
- 9) A process according to claim 4 wherein the pH of the cooled premix is adjusted to a value in the range 3.5 to 5.2 by the addition of an edible acid.
- 10) A process according to claim 9 wherein the edible acid is citric acid.
- 11) A process according to claim 6 wherein the cooled premix is held at 0 to 6°C for a period of between 1 and 24 hours before freezing.

12) A process for manufacturing a frozen aerated product having an overrun of between 10% and 250% and a pH, when melted, in the range 3.5 to 5.2 said frozen aerated product comprising water, 0 to 20 w/w% fat, 0.25 to 20 w/w% milk solids not fat, 0.1 to 35 w/w% sweetener, 0.05 to 1.5 w/w% soluble dietary fibre and 0.1 to 5 w/w% insoluble dietary fibre but no additional stabilisers or emulsifiers, the process comprising the steps of:

a) producing a premix comprising fat, milk solids non fat, sweetener

b) homogenising and pasteurising the premix

c) cooling the pasteurised premix

d) adding fruit and/or vegetable puree containing sufficient soluble and insoluble fibre to provide the necessary soluble and insoluble fibre in the frozen aerated product

e) freezing and aerating the mixture to form the frozen aerated product

13) A process according to claim 12 wherein the fruit and/or vegetable puree is homogenised before it is added to the pasteurised premix.

14) A process according to claim 12 wherein premix is produced by mixing the milk solids not fat and the sweetener and then adding the fat (if used).

15) A process according to claim 12 wherein the pH of the cooled premix is adjusted to a value in the range 3.5 to 5.2 by the addition of an edible acid.

16) A process according to claim 14 wherein the edible acid is citric acid.

- 17) A process according to claim 12 wherein the cooled premix is held at 0 to 6°C for a period of between 1 and 24 hours before freezing.

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ABSTRACT

10 A frozen aerated product having an overrun of between 10% and  
250% and a pH, when melted, in the range 3.5 to 5.2, comprises  
water, 0 to 20 w/w% fat, 0.25 to 20 w/w% milk solids not fat,  
0.05 to 1.5 w/w% soluble dietary fibre and 0.1 to 5 w/w% of  
insoluble dietary fibre, 0.1 to 35 w/w% sweetener but no  
15 additional stabilisers or emulsifiers as herein defined. The  
soluble and insoluble dietary fibre may be derived from fruits or  
vegetables for example from one or more fruit purees, one or more  
vegetable purees or mixtures thereof.